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THE DECLARATION of Colonel *Rich*'s Regiment.

With the

Engagement they have Entered into.

ALSO

Major *Braman*'s Letter to Lievtenant Colonel *Lagoe*, upon their going into PORTSMOUTH.

To which is added another Letter sent from Major Braman *to a Friend of his in* London.

London, Printed by *T. M.* for *Livewell Chapman*, at his shop in *Popes-head Alley*, 1659.

185 x 137
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The Declaration of Coll. Riche's *Regiment.*

DEarely beloved Brethren, Friends and fellow-Souldiers; Wisdome is justified of her children, and we therefore hope shall not be condemned by you; We cannot but believe concerning you, that the same trouble and perplexitie of spirit hath possessed you as our selves; and the same enquires, after our good old Cause, hath been in you as in us; and we humbly hope, that the God of all our mercies, whose will we desire to follow in all things, will shew you as (blessed be his Name) he hath done us, what is our dutie in this dark Day. We have, as you, silently sat down and seen a lawfull Authoritie, yea, that very Parliament, that raised and maintained us, after all the eminent and honourable Services done for God and their Generations, kickt out of their Seats with contempt and scorn: At which time we desire to remember to our own shame, that our poore native Country, notwithstanding their feirce intestine wars and trouble, just gone over its head, was so settled and composed, that hardly could be perceived the Tract of that trouble they passed through; our Trade quick and flourishing, and such abundant blessing from above, that the Poore were satisfied with bread in that plenty, that neither we nor our Fathers has seen the people of God countenanced and encouraged, growing up in union in all parts, and the publike enemy desponding; At this juncture, we say, when *England* thus flourished, *Ireland* reduced, and *Scotland* Conquered, the *Dane*, *Dutch* and *French* afraid of our Fleets, and begging amity with us; and we a terrour to all the Nations round about, and when we were constantly paid before it was due, and our Navy not a penny in Arrears; we *Jeserum* like waxed fat and kicked against our dear God and those glorious Instruments in his hands; and suffered our selves, through want of courage (forgetting conscience and our Duty) to be led to the emposing an

Arbitrary

Arbitrary Power over our ſelves and the Free-born People of *England*; by which means our Fleets are loſt and leſſened, our Trade decayed and ruined, our poore Countrey waſted and empoveriſhed, the Poore ſtarved, the Land unſetled, the Souldiers unpaid, the People of God rent and divided, publike enemies encouraged, and we become a deriſion to them we were a terrour too: We ſay having run our ſelves and poore Nation, from ſuch a happy ſettlement, into ſuch throngs of exegencies and diſtreſſes, from which we could no way imaginable extricate our ſelves, and ſave the people thereof from inevitable ruine and diſtraction. But the calling in that famous *Long Parliament*, we ſo wickedly and unworthily had turned out, which accordingly was done; and they no ſooner ſat again, but the antient Preſence of our bleſſed God, appeared for them as formerly, and while they were intent upon their Generation-Work of laying foundations, for future Settlement, ſeeking out wayes to ſatisfie the Army, greatning the Navie, propagating Trade, *&c.* But that old ſpirit of Pride, Diſobedience and Ambition ſought occaſion; Firſt, to quarrel, then interrupt their Power again, to the utter expoſing of that juſt and righteous Cauſe and Intereſt to an unavoidable ruine and deſtruction. And as if one former apoſtacy which we pretended to repent of, had not been ſufficient to have attracted the hate and obloquie of God and all good men; They have run us into a *Second* evill, of a far greater magnitude than the former, and have emproved our eaſineſſe and aptneſſe to follow them implicitely, ſo as that they have brought us point blanck againſt our very Cauſe and Company, and in the face of the Sun, do Command us to ſheath our Swords in the bowels of the *Supream* Authority of this Nation, againſt which never any yet lift up their hands proſpered; and to take away the blood of our dear Brethren old and faithfull friends, and as a Cheat, to compaſſe their deſignes the better, they would engage us to blood againſt this Parliament, under pretence of calling another. As if any Parliament could take the like care of us, both as Soul-

diers and Englishmen, as they whose Army we are, for you cannot but take notice, that all Parliaments, that ever yet hath been in the intervales of this, were never freinds, but enemies to the Army, this being most obvious to us, and we hope to you, we cannot but acquaint you with our Resolutions, which is, that as the Army in *Scotland*, the Fleet unanimously, our brethren at *London*, and Col. *Berries* Regiment have Declared against this repeated Apostacy; and for the famous Long Parliament; so we in honour, duty and conscience are bound with Swords in our hands to assert their just, and lawfull Power, so often acknowledged by our selves, against all that shall oppose it, Us, or any that have or do appear therefore. There being no other expedient to expiate our guilt, appease our God, pacifie our Conscience, clear our Reputations, to keep true to our Promises and Engagements, to Cement Gods People, to satisfie the Souldery, to settle the Nation, and to give us the Fruit of all the Blood spilt, Treasurie spent, Prayers put up, Tears poured out, in which we hope, we shall have your chearfull concurrence, and that you will not suffer your selves to be led any longer against your true Interests both as men and Christians: Such of your Officers as shall joyn with us in the work, we desire may have double Honour; but such as shall perswade you to persist in their Apostacy, we hope, you will as we shall doe, displace as persons perfideous and treacherous to God and their Trusts: Thus have we nakedly and freely unbosomed our selves, and broken the Ice, we shall now leave all to him, who is able to set your Dutie home upon your hearts, and save by few as by many, before whom we have mutablie Engaged our selves to Live and Dye together; which Resolution the Frowns nor Flatteries of none shall make us to recede from; and in him rest dear Brethren and fellow-Souldiers, yours and the Common-wealths Friends and Servants.

We have enclosed sent you the Copy of our Engagement, subscribed by all, none dissenting; we also desire you to elect two of each Company to treate with the like number elected out of each Troop, to carry on the work.

The Engagement.

WE whose names are hereunto subscribed, do solemnly in the sight of God; whose we are, and who knows our hearts, in our present undertaking, engage that we will Adventure for each other to the last drop of our Bloods in the just defence of the Parliament, against our consents most violently and treacherously interrupted; and for that good and common intrest so long contended for; and do once again say that we will neither divide nor suffer our selves to be divided till the liberties both civil and Christian of all men be full setled and secured, and from this our engagment neither by Art nor armes, will we be withdrawn, till we die. Testified in the presence of him who is able to make us do valiantly, on whom alone we desire to depend, and who we humbly hope will issue our undertakings so as glory will redound to him: and such good to present and future generations, as babes unborne may bless us for,

Portsdown, *Decemb.* 20. 1659.

Major Braymans *Letter to Lieutenant Colonel* Lago.

BY Order from the Commissioners, by Authority of Parliament I am to Randesvows my Colonels Regiment at *Portsdown* this day, and in obedience thereto, am upon my march; I am also commanded to send to them for farther Orders. I therefore desire all stops may be removed between them and me, that I may know and execute their commands, if you shall refuse, I shall march my Troops and endeavour by other wayes to do my duty. I desire no blood may be effused, if there be, conscience and your Commission, will first accuse, and then condemne you: I nor those with me, having nothing upon our hearts but a healing that Breach that's rejoyced at, by none but them that seek your Ruine as well as ours, and an earnest desire that all heats and Animosities be-

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tween the Parliament and their Army may be forgotten and forgiven, which shall be no more heartily pursued by you than Sirs,

Havant Decemb. 20. 11. clock, 1659.

Your Freind and Servant John Braman

I desire you would communicate this to our dear Brethren, Fellow Freinds and Souldiers with you and expect your speedy answer.

Superscribed for Leiutenant Colonel Lagoe at Cosham.

A letter from Major Braman *to a friend of his in* London.

My dear freind,

BEcause no reputation's so clear, nor act so honest, but envy will attempt to detract: I thought good to give you the trouble of a right understanding, to the end you may assoile me from Mr. *Needham*'s charge that I foresee will furiously come upon me: My principle you know: Nor did I ever endeavour to abscond it. Equall and universall Liberty, you are my witnesse I have loved. And never yet thought my little all too much to venture for it: the paucity of its owners is matter of sorrow. But can never make him vary that eys his duty. What you believed others feared concerning me; that I was guilty of that capitall Crime, of being constant and Faithfull to my Trust: a sin that ever yet stuck as close to me as my shirt; and therefore our Commander in chief here gave me the benefit of an easie bed, at a convenient distance, till I deemed it necessary to draw somewhat neerer him; which I did yesterday, with my Colonels Troop *Merimans* and my own; and from *Havant* sent him the enclosed. But it found him absent: for in the morning an houre or two before

before, two or three Souldiers went from my troops, to the Leagure with the enclosed Resolution and Engagement, one to each Company, which the Lieutenant Colonel understanding, whether he thought he could not weather the Point, or what other reason he best knows: But as I said, he took an occasion to be absent: After my letter I marched for *Portsdown*, dismounted *Barrington*, and secured *Ducket*, and took their Troops with me, who willingly followed; I spake one word or two to the troops, desired them to consult with their Conscience, and resolve either to own the true Interest they had fought and bled for; or use their Liberty otherwise. But as with one mouth, they cryed all, all, to the enclosed Engagement (which if you judge necessary may be made more publike) I then imediately marched: But the Foot before we came at them, had took up their Resolution, they would not fight us, and were marching with their Colours for *Portsmouth*, where they now are; the Officers have liberty to return if they please: Not one Musket was fired on either side, which truly I judge a signal mercy; and certainly it is instructive, and doth tell us, that our duty is to pursue peace with each other and not war; which was the main improvement I begged of our Commissioners to make of this mercy: For though my blood and hundred else is too imcompetent for that precious Cause of God, and our generation: Yet a composure by us is rather coveted; nor shall any blood be spilt by us, can we conserve our Cause without it: Pretty contradictory and inconsistant are the objections of well minded people; one cryes out the Parliament was infringing liberty of Conscience, another places this Objection, that they were too much enlarging it; Christ eat and drank, John did neither, yet a Devill, and as bad were they both, in the esteem of most; and truly prejudice, nor desire of Dominion can scarcely be pleased. I would not willingly judge the generation of the just; though I see they are preyed upon, and loose their own reputation, and bring a reproach on that blessed name they professe, to lift up and exalt poore mortal

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changeable Creatures: whereas if things not persons were more respected by us; we should look a little more before we leap, and not umbrage unhandsome acts, under a Christian Visor. I speak it not to upbraid, but wish I could convince any of this errour: but he that believes makes not haste; God has his season, to work his will in: I wish we may be found waiting upon him in well doing, and I doubt not then, but the issue of this sad affaire will bring peace and settlement to these poore distracted Nations, Then which nothing is more coveted by,

Petersfeild, Decemb. 21. 59.

Dear Sr.

Your Affectionate and faithfull servt.

F. Braman.

FINIS.